

Epstein files new version of lawsuit

Sex offender alleges victims' attorney abused court system by threatening to depose his friends.

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Billionaire sex offender Jeffrey Epstein says attorney Brad Edwards abused the court system by threatening to depose Epstein's powerful friends.

Epstein says Edwards threatened to depose Donald Trump, Alan Dershowitz, President Bill Clinton, former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, Tommy Mottola, David Copperfield and others. The allega-

Please see LAWSUIT, Page 7

LAWSUIT

Edwards' attorney files motion to dismiss Epstein complaint

From Page 1

tions are contained in an amended complaint filed by attorney Joseph Ackerman on behalf of Epstein.

"Edwards' intent was simply to harass friends and acquaintances of Epstein," the complaint says.

Attorney Jack Scarola has filed a motion to dismiss, describing the complaint as an intent to "defame" Edwards.

Edwards has represented 10 underage girls in sex abuse claims brought against Epstein, who settled more than two dozen cases under a confidentiality agreement. All contain similar allegations: Epstein paid them for massages and sex acts at his El Brillo Way home.

Epstein, 58, served 13 months of an 18-month sentence for soliciting minors for prostitution and soliciting prostitution.

Epstein filed his original lawsuit against Edwards in December 2009, alleging the attorney was involved in false claims made by Ponzi schemer Scott Rothstein. Epstein alleged Rothstein, who is a co-defendant, lured investors to his scheme by telling them Epstein had agreed to settle sex abuse lawsuits for as much as \$200 million.

Edwards worked at Rothstein's law firm for several months before the scheme imploded. Rothstein is serving 50 years in federal prison for running a \$1.2 billion Ponzi scheme. Epstein alleged, in his first filing, that Edwards knew — or should have known — about the scheme.

Edwards filed a counterclaim, alleging Epstein filed the frivolous lawsuit to

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FROM COMPLAINT

get him to back down from representing the victims.

Other claims made by Epstein in his latest filing: that Edwards tried to obtain records from an alleged sex therapist who had never treated Epstein and attempted to get records of Epstein's prescriptions when no claims regarding his health were at issue.

According to the court filing, Edwards used illegal investigative tools, which included trespassing on Epstein's property, using continual surveillance and attempting to bring about a probation violation. All of that caused Epstein to employ security guards and install an expensive security system to protect himself, according to the court papers.

Epstein had filed a complaint with the Florida Bar against Edwards, raising allegations that Edwards and others were involved in Rothstein's wrongdoing. After investigating the claim, the Florida Bar dismissed the complaint. Last July, Edwards received a letter from the U.S. Attorney's Office — the office responsible for prosecuting Rothstein — identifying Edwards as a potential victim of Rothstein.

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Epstein

Filed original suit December 2009.